Losses suffered by ITDC due to fire in its Faridabad godown

*48. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the India Tourism Development Corporation suffered a loss of lakhs of rupees due to the destruction of publicity material caused by fire in its Faridabad godown;

(b) if so, what is the etimated loss suffered by the ITDC as a result thereof;

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government to ascertain the causes of the fire; and

(d) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) Material worth Rs. 72.58 lakhs was destroyed by fire in Faridabad godown of ITDC.

(c) and (d) As the ITDC after their enquiry had reported that the fire was accidental, no further enquiry was condcted by the Government.

Committee on computerisation in Banks

*49. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had constituted a Committee on Computerisation in banks in September, 1988;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has since prepared any perspective plan ;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(d) by when the proposed plan would be made operative ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The perspective plan of computerisation in banking industry as drawn up by the Rangarajan Committee for the period 1990-94 incorporates, *inter-alia*, computerisation of abont 500 large branches located at 30 metropolitan/urban centres during the next 2-3 years. The computerisation is to be extended to cover some additional relatively large branches resulting in computerisation of about 6-7 percent of branches of public sector banks during 1990-94. Total number of public sector banks branches are 39,000 (approximately). The plan also envisages some computerisation of Regional/Zonal Offices for better house-keeping and decision-making.

Modalities for debt relief to weaker sections of society

*50. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have evolved modalities for debt relief upto Rs. 10,000 to small, marginal and landless cultivators and also for artisans and persons living below the poverty line in slums in urban areas;

(b) whether there has also been a proposal to evolve a scheme for providing working capital and other credit facilities to small domestic and rural industrial units ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) The Government is considering a scheme for debt relief upto Rs. 10,000 to certain categories of borrowers in rural areas only. The modalities for implementing the scheme are being worked out.

The banks provide credit on liberal terms to priority sector, of which small scale industries form a part and includes domestic and rural industrial units. Bank loans upto Rs. 25,000 are available to artisans, village and cottage industries under the composite loan scheme at the concessional rate of interest of 10% per annum in backward areas and 12% per annum in other areas. No collateral security/ third party guarantee and margin are required on such loans upto Rs. 25,000/-.

Removal of two Election Commissioners

*51. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :
SHRI P.N. SUKUL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the reasons for removing two Election Commissioners recently;

(b) whether the decision was based on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner; and

(c) whether Government have decided to keep the Election Commission as a single member body

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) In October 1989, in view of the anticipated substantial increase in the volume of work consequent upon the expected passage of the Constitution (Sixty-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1989 and the Constitution (Sixty-fifth Amendment) Bill 1989, relating to Panchayats and Nagarpalikas and also owing to the revision of electoral rolls on account of the lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18, the Government decided to add two more Election Commissioners. Since the Bills lapsed in the Rajya Sabha and after the general elections the volume of work decreased, Government decided to abolish the two newly created posts of "other Election Commissioners", vide notification dated 1-1-1990.

(b) The Chief Election Commissioner was consulted before the said notification was issued and he opined that the volume of work did not justify a multi member Commission.

(c) The question whether the Election Commission should be a single member body or a multi-member body is presently being deliberated upon by the Committee on Electoral Reforms. After obtaining the report of the Committee, Government will take a decision in the matter.

Decline in profits of Public Sector Banks

*52. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether profits of the public sector banks in the country are anticipated to show considerable de-